

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Altenburg

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 3 March 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. On 12 February, the barracks installation on the east side of Leipziger Strasse in Altenburg quartered troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. The installation was occupied to capacity. On 20 January, the rear of a column including 6 trucks, each towing a 76.2-mm AT gun, 4 field kitchens, 1 radio truck and 12 trucks moved into the installation from the direction of town. [redacted] other columns had already entered the installation. Between 1 and 12 February, no training activity was noticed at the installation. Motor vehicles identified in traffic to and from the billeting area [redacted]

2. On 12 February, the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse was occupied to capacity. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. [redacted] a large column including guns, prime movers and trucks had moved into the installation from the direction of Leipzig on 24 December. Between 1 and 12 February, there was only little vehicular traffic. Motor vehicles seen there had the same numbers as those seen at the installation on the east side of Leipziger Strasse.

3. On 12 February, about 60 to 70 officers' billets in the residential quarter on Leipziger Strasse and Kopernikus Strasse was occupied to capacity. Soviet families were also quartered in two large houses which had been vacated by the German population in December 1953. These buildings include about 40 residences. [redacted] more German apartments will be confiscated.

4. During the morning and evening hours between 1 and 12 February, intensive traffic was noticed on the railroad siding leading to the barracks installation.

5. The following three columns passed through Altenburg from the direction of the barracks installations on 18 January:

First column:

[redacted] each occupied by 10 to 15 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and carrying rifles and full pack, and a truck with field kitchen.

Second column: trucks

[redacted] with 3 x 76.2-mm AT guns and 3 x 100-mm AT guns, and 1 truck towing a field kitchen.

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Third column: 8 trucks including 6 towing 76.2-mm and 100-mm AT guns, 1 truck with field kitchen, 1 ambulance and 1 radio truck. [REDACTED]

25X1

6. Between 29 January and 5 February, troops returned to the post. It seemed that these troops were elements who had left the post on 18 January. On 5 February, 4 trucks towing 3 x 45-mm AT guns moved through town toward the barracks installation, presumably coming from an exercise. [REDACTED]

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7. On 5 February, the barracks installation on the east side of Leipziger Strasse quartered 350 to 400 troops. On 29 January, about 50 soldiers practiced marching in the barracks yard, while 2 heavy prime movers, each towing a 122-mm gun left the installation. About 30 soldiers trained with 3 x 122-mm guns, and 10 soldiers with a 76.2-mm AT gun in the area north of the installation. On 5 February, 3 trucks, each towing a 76.2-mm AT gun and carrying 20 soldiers entered the installation, presumably coming from an exercise. Fifty to seventy troops practiced aiming with 3 AT guns and 2 x 122-mm guns in the area north of the installation. Three prime movers were seen there. Truck [REDACTED] was identified at the installation.

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8. On 5 February, the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse was occupied by about 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulettes including some with artillery insignia. On 29 January, 60 soldiers practiced marching, and 30 soldiers did maintenance work on two trucks, in the barracks yard. About 30 soldiers engaged in close-order drill on 5 February. On 29 January and 5 February, 25 soldiers trained in the training area north of the installation. They practiced with two battery commander's telescopes and practiced firing with a 45-mm AT gun. On 29 January and 5 February, about 40 soldiers trained with smoke candles, and about 60 soldiers practiced loading 3 x 122-mm guns, in the Obstwaeldchen training area.

9. On 29 January, the officers' billets on Leipziger Strasse were about 60 percent occupied.

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[REDACTED] Comment. Report tends to indicate that the bulk of the two artillery brigades of the Eighth Gds Army were at the post in January and February. There are various indications that, from December to February, elements were temporarily absent for field exercises or firing practice.

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